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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heavy Metal Tour Returns for Final Show: Copper Meets Building Show

104,000 pounds of copper panels will clad
new building for the Utah Museum of Natural History.

May 22, 2010 (Salt Lake City, Utah) – The copper to be installed on the Utah Museum of Natural History's new building, the Rio Tinto Center, at the University of Utah has been on a *Heavy Metal Tour* for the better part of last year and has returned for its final show: *Copper Meets Building*. While the copper was on the road, it was transformed from large cathodes to flat panels that will be used to form a beautiful copper façade for the building. The copper, mined from Kennecott Utah Copper's Bingham Canyon Mine, made stops at fabricators in New York, Arizona and Salt Lake before returning to the construction site for installation.

The copper is part of Rio Tinto's $15 million donation to the Museum announced in 2008. Rio Tinto is the parent company to Kennecott Utah Copper. The new building's unique copper skin was selected for

its inherent beauty as a natural material, and also of its significance of the rich mining history of Utah.

"Kennecott's support for the Museum dates back 30 years," noted Museum Executive Director Sarah George. "Its financial donations for special events, exhibits and educational programming have provided learning opportunities to tens of thousands of visitors annually, said George.

The copper's "Heavy Metal Tour" began last August when it pulled away by rail from the loading dock at Kennecott's refinery, and made its way to Buffalo, N.Y., to a company called Luvata where the pure copper was placed into a furnace with a brass alloy and a bronze alloy – creating a perfect mixture to weather beautifully over time. Luvata shaped the copper into large copper coils and then shipped the material to its next destination, Mesa, Ariz. There, Umicor reformed the copper coils into 4'x10' panels. The panels were then sent to Noorda Architectural Metals in Salt Lake City where it was prepared for installation.

Early in the design process, copper was identified as an attractive material for the building's facade because of its timelessness, durability and strong local significance. The bands will be enriched with the two types of copper-zinc alloy to enhance the subtle variegation in copper's natural patina. Over time, the copper on the building will go from being bright as a penny to a dark brown, and finally, to a beautiful variegated Verde finish.

"The copper façade roots the Museum to the Utah landscape by virtue of both the material's origin and its design expression as a natural form," said John Branson, Principal, GSBS Architects. "The copper will be integral to the Museum's unique identity and become a

recognizable feature of one of the state's most loved and admired institutions."

The Heavy Metal celebration also recognizes reaching the half-way mark (62 percent) in the construction of the new building.

"While this is not the largest building Big-D Construction has ever built, it certainly falls in the category of being one of the most complex," said Rob Moore, president and COO of Big-D Construction. "It is this complexity that emphasizes the building's beauty and energy, which in turn represents the beauty and energy of Utah's landscape. It's just been a very exciting project for Big-D to handle," said Moore.

The Big-D management team assigned to the Museum project and all of the crew members—up to 180 workers on any given day—have achieved an outstanding safety record. To date, 328,875 man hours have been recorded without a lost time accident. The new building is set to open in late 2011.

Program Speakers:

Sarah George, Executive Director, Utah Museum of Natural History
Rob Moore, President & COO, Big-D Construction
Kelly Sanders, President & CEO, Kennecott Utah Copper
Speaker of the House David Clark, Utah State Legislature